



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Bailey's Evolution of our Native Fruits.¹—Though Professor Bailey is a horticulturist and commonly writes for horticulturists, he is well known to botanists as an accomplished botanist. To say that the nine chapters comprised in the present book are devoted to the rise of the American grape, the strange history of the mulberries, the evolution of American plums and cherries, the native apples, the origin of American raspberry-growing, evolution of blackberry and dewberry culture, various types of berry-like fruits, various types of tree fruits, and general remarks on the improvement of our native fruits, tells little of the wealth of detail that it contains. Group after group is monographed, and people in search of disentangled snarls of nomenclatural detail need seek little further than the present work for models of conservative upheaval when upheaval becomes necessary. As to the horticultural side of the book, little need be said: it was written for horticulturists.

T.

Poisonous Grains.—It has long been believed that the fruit of *Lolium temulentum* is poisonous, and chemists have had something to say about its toxic principles. In the *Journal de Botanique* for August, M. Guérin publishes an article embodying the results of a study made at the École supérieure de pharmacie of Paris, in which he records the constant occurrence of fungal hyphæ in the nucellus of the ovule and the layer of the caryopsis lying between the aleurone layer and the hyaline portion of the wall. These hyphæ, which appear not to have been identified with any fruiting form, are referred to as, perhaps, the cause of the toxicity of the *Loliums* in which they occur (*L. temulentum*, *L. arvense*, and *L. linicola*), and they are stated not to have been found in *L. Italicum*, and only once in *L. perenne*. The fungus is compared with *Endoconidium temulentum*, Pril. & Delacr., found in diseased grain of the rye, and believed to be the cause of some of the cases of poisoning attributed to that grain, though it is believed to differ from the fungus named, and the conclusion is reached that, unlike this species and *Claviceps*, it lives in the maturing grain symbiotically rather than as a parasite.

Botanical Notes.—The issue of *Möller's Deutsche Gärtner-Zeitung* of October 22 may be called a Clematis number. It is well illustrated and contains a number of articles on the cultivated forms of this attractive genus by well-known writers.

¹ Bailey, L. H. *Sketch of the Evolution of our Native Fruits*. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1898. 8vo, xiii + 472 pp., 125 ff.

Ranunculus Andersonii Gray is made the type of a new genus, Beckwithia, by Jepson, in the October number of *Erythea*. Unfortunately, the fact that the two are identical was not discovered soon enough to prevent the one species from appearing on the plate as *B. Andersonii*, and in the text as *B. Austinae*.

Anton Pestalozzi's revision of the Capparidaceous genus *Boscia*, reprinted from the *Bulletin* of the Boissier Herbarium, forms No. 7 of the "Mittheilungen aus dem botanischen Museum der Universität Zürich."

The acaulescent violets of the eastern states are the subject of further observations by C. L. Pollard, in the *Botanical Gazette* for November. Twenty-seven species of this type are now distinguished in the key, but even then the author adds that he fully realizes "the futility of constructing any key in the hope that it will afford conclusive determinations of every unusual form." "Habit as well as habitat, the texture of the herbage, color of the flowers, position of the cleistogenes, nervation, shape and degrees of pubescence of the leaves, nature of the surrounding vegetation," are all taken into consideration in the separation of species for which herbarium material is said to be absolutely worthless unless one is fortified by previous familiarity with the growing plant.

Hydrophyllum tenuipes is the name given by Heller in the *Bulletin of the Torrey Club* for November to a plant from the state of Washington.

The hybrid between *Lobelia syphilitica* and *L. cardinalis*, which sometimes occurs spontaneously in this country, appears to have been produced in cultivation in France, and to have been again crossed on *L. cardinalis* (*Annales Soc. Bot. de Lyon*. 22: 8).

Part III of Professor Comes's memoir on tobacco¹ is a classified account of the introduction, cultivation, and use of tobacco in Asia and Oceania.

M. C. de Candolle contributes a paper entitled "Piperaceæ Bolivianæ" to the *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* for November. Two new species of *Piper* and ten of *Peperomia* are described.

Actinidia Kolomicta, a climbing plant, the foliage of which is quite as brilliantly colored as that of the commonly cultivated and popular *Acalyphas*, is figured in color in *Die Gartenwelt* of November 6.

¹ Comes, O. Del tabacco. Storia, geografia, statistica, speciografia, agrologia e patologia. III. Napoli, 1898. (*Atti R. Ist. d'Incorrag. di Napoli*.)

An interesting paper is that by Rowlee and Hastings in the *Botanical Gazette* for November, on the seeds and seedlings of some Amentiferæ.

Septal nectaries, quite common in several of the larger families of Monocotyledons, are now noted by Van Tieghem for *Cneorum tricoccum*, for which it is proposed to create the new combination *Chamalea pulverulenta* (Vent.). (*Bull. Muséum d'Hist. Nat. Paris*, 1898: 241).

Luzula campestris and related species form the subject of a neat little brochure, with a good plate, reprinted by Buchenau from the *Oesterreichische Botanische Zeitschrift* of 1898.

The Cyperaceæ of British India have been tabulated by C. B. Clarke in the *Journal of the Linnean Society, Botany*, No. 235, with reference to their geographical distribution. Eleven areas are recognized from this point of view. The paper is thus virtually an appendix to the *Flora of British India* of Sir Joseph Hooker.

Dr. Elliott Coues, in the *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, 1898, Part II, publishes a critical article on the localities for the plants of Lewis and Clark's herbarium, a list of which, apparently rather inaccurate in some respects, was some time ago published by Mr. Meehan.

"A Few Notes on Canadian Plant-lore," by Carrie M. Derick, and "A Review of Canadian Botany from 1800 to 1895," by D. P. Penhallow, are the titles of Nos. 6 and 7 of the *Papers from the Department of Botany of McGill University*, reprinted, respectively, from the *Canadian Record of Science* and the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada*.

From its title, the *Queensland Agricultural Journal* would not be turned to by the systematic botanist, but its current issues contain a goodly number of descriptions of new species of Australian and Papuan plants by F. Manson Bailey, the colonial botanist of Queensland.

Science, of November 18, contains a preliminary paper on the fauna and flora about Coldspring Harbor, L. I., by Professor Davenport, and an article by Dr. Mead on an unusually abundant occurrence of a species of *Peridinium* in the waters of Narragansett Bay last summer, giving an intense red color and a very disagreeable odor to the water, and killing many fish and crustacea.

The last part of the *Wissenschaftliche Meeresuntersuchungen* of the Kommission zur wissenschaftlichen Untersuchung der deutschen Meere in Kiel is largely occupied by phycological plankton studies.

Heft 5 of *Hedwigia* for 1898 is occupied by the conclusion of C. Mueller's "Analecta bryographica Antillarum," and the first installment of Hennings's "Fungi Americani-boreales." Among the latter Hennings is still finding a good grist of new species.

Bolander, well known by name at least to all students of Californian botany, is the subject of a biographical sketch, with portrait, in *Erythea* for October.

In the *Proceedings of the Linnæan Society*, October, 1898, is given a half-tone figure of the special gold medal presented to Sir Joseph Hooker by the Society on the occasion of the completion of his *Flora of British India*. The obverse bears a relief bust of Dr. Hooker, modeled very faithfully by Bowcher, while the reverse is margined by a wreath of Sikkim rhododendrons, surrounding a suitable inscription.

The American Botanist is the name under which another journalistic effort is launched by Charles Russell Orcutt. While his previous papers have hailed from the Pacific coast, this, of which Vol. I, No. 1, appeared in September, seems to come from the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University, though a note by Dr. Robinson in the *Botanical Gazette* makes it appear that it is not to be regarded in any way as an official publication of the herbarium. The initial (and unique?) number is devoted to "an attempt at forming a record for the botanic garden of Harvard University, aiming to present the history and individuality of each specimen plant,"—a point in which Mr. Orcutt is believed to consider most American gardens very defective, — and deals with the cacti, not even excluding the glass models of the Ware Collection.

PALEONTOLOGY.

Habits of Thylacoleo. — In a recent number of the *Proceedings of the Linnæan Society of New South Wales*, Dr. R. Broom revives the question of the habits of a remarkable extinct Australian form, which led to a famous controversy between Sir Richard Owen and Sir William Flower. In 1859 Owen presented Thylacoleo as "one of the fellest and most destructive of predatory beasts, with affinities to the Dasyuridæ." Later, moreover, in 1866, he adhered to this interpretation of the large back cutting teeth, although in the mean time a pair of procumbent tusks had been discovered, which appar-